

## ARIZONA HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

### Application for Arizona Centennial 2012 Legacy Project Designation

**AHAC Mission:** Develop, encourage and coordinate a statewide plan for Arizona's centennial in 2012 including advising the legislature and state agencies on centennial history and heritage, arts and culture, assisting the governor's countdown to the centennial to support school children learning about Arizona's history and recommending activities and projects that will ensure lasting accomplishments to commemorate the centennial.

**Vision for Centennial Projects:** Commemorations that encourage all Arizonans to reflect on our unique and authentic history, to experience the rich and diverse tapestry of our heritage, and to explore our promising futures, thus ensuring a lasting legacy.

**Legacy Project Criteria:** This is a request for official designation as an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project. To be considered, the project must 1) accurately portray a significant aspect of Arizona history; 2) be accessible to large number of visitors/users; 3) demonstrate collaboration in the planning; 4) produce an enduring product that will live on after 2012; 5) include an educational component; 6) include a plan for implementation.

Attach a maximum of three pages that address the following areas, in the order listed:

1. General description of the project.
  2. Describe how this project meets the Legacy Project criteria.
  3. Project timeline. Give details regarding planning and implementation.
  4. Describe the project location.
  5. List project partners, if applicable.
  6. Attach a proposed budget, showing total project cost and funding sources.
  7. Please also provide letters of support from project partners and sponsors.
- These are in addition to the three-page maximum.

Name of project: **Heritage Park**

Applicant: **Town of Buckeye**

Contact person: **Sarah Blank; Library, History and Arts Manager**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (authorizing official)

6-11-08  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The Arizona Historical Advisory Commission will review the Committee's recommendations and make final decisions regarding Legacy Project designations. Submit application to:

Arizona Historical Advisory Committee  
1700 W Washington, Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

## Legacy Project Narrative

### 1. Project Description

Heritage Park is a 13.9 acre site located in the Town of Buckeye. It is housed on a former cotton gin site. The cotton gin is historically relevant because it was in operation from 1928 to 2005 and contributed greatly to the agricultural history of the Town. The gin building will remain on site and the Town may restore and/or renovate it as an educational component. The site is located on Miller Road, which serves as a gateway to historic downtown Buckeye. This location allows for a well positioned tourist destination and economic driver for the Town.

Heritage Park incorporates various components to create a unique educational and recreational facility that preserves the authentic culture and heritage of Buckeye. These components include the Buckeye Museum, a large scale park, a walking trail, 2-3 acres of Arizona's native agricultural fields, a farmer's market and an outdoor amphitheatre. Agriculture is a key aspect of Buckeye's history and heritage. The agricultural fields will be planted and maintained throughout the year and will provide a forum for educational demonstrations, lectures and hands on activities. The Museum's focus is local history and agriculture. Tractor and farm implement displays will be exhibited in and around the museum as well as along the walking trail. The walking trail will be adjacent to the perimeter wall, which is approximately 4,000 linear feet. Arizona's native plants and trees will encompass the walking trail. The Museum will provide portable audio devices and MP3 downloads of historical narratives and information for visitor use while exploring the museum, walking trail and surrounding areas. The large scale park/outdoor amphitheatre provide an area for community events, group visits and family picnics. The Annual Fall Festival and Tractor Show will commence at Heritage Park in October, 2008. This event will highlight Buckeye's agricultural heritage and history.

### 2. Legacy Criteria

Agriculture is a significant aspect of Buckeye and Arizona's history. Heritage Park provides an effective venue to showcase and interpret this important component. The Park is a public facility that will be open daily. Visitors will be able to enjoy family picnics and activities. Large groups, including school field trips and tours will be accommodated throughout the year. Special events will also bring many visitors to the Park. Heritage Park is currently in the planning phase. Buckeye Union High School, the Arizona Early Days Gas Engine and Tractor Association (AEDGE&TA) and the Buckeye Historical Society are partnering with the Town to plan and implement this important project. Heritage Park is a long term asset for the Town of Buckeye. It provides a lasting legacy of our history and heritage. It is also an excellent tourist destination and economic driver. Heritage Park will provide excellent educational opportunities for children and adults. The on site agricultural fields, tractor and farm implement displays offer a hands on learning experience for visitors. Children will be able to touch and climb on antique tractors while they learn about their function and importance. Family centered activities and field demonstrations, such as wheat thrashing, will be held throughout the year. Heritage Park is currently in the planning phase. The Town's fundraising campaign kicks off on Monday, June 9, 2008. Grant funding, fundraising/partnerships and Town funds will all be used to implement the Heritage Park project. Thus far, SouthWest Gas has donated \$10,000 to the project. The Buckeye Historical Society has donated \$2,000 for a design scholarship and an

additional \$3,000 in project funding.

3. Project Timeline

The Town purchased the gin property in December 2007. Planning and design are currently underway. Phase one of Heritage Park includes design and engineering, infrastructure, grading, a perimeter view fence, a turf play area, a ramada, outdoor restrooms and lighted surface parking. We expect phase one to be complete by 2010. Subsequent phases will include the walking trail, outdoor amphitheatre, agricultural fields and the Buckeye Museum. These phases will be complete on or before January 2012.

4. Project Location

Heritage Park is located at 801 S. Miller Road, South of Baseline and North of MC-85. The site is formerly known as the Eastman Cotton Gin and is approximately 13.9 acres.

5. Project Partners

The Town of Buckeye is partnering with Arizona Early Days Gas Engine and Tractor Association (AEDGE &TA); Buckeye Historical Society and Buckeye Union High School on this important project. These partners are participating in the planning process and provide both funds and in-kind contributions. We are pursuing additional partners as well as alternate funding sources (such as grants and fundraisers).

6. Proposed Budget

Please see attached spreadsheet.

Heritage Park  
Proposed Budget

Item	Estimated Cost	Estimated in-kind	Estimated Completion Date	Possible Funding	Notes
Land Purchase	2,100,000			Town funds	purchased 12/07
Design and Engineering	510,000	\$457,200	2009	LSRP Grant	Local, State and Regional Parks (LSRP) grant in the amount of \$780,000
Infrastructure and Grading	582,000	291,000	2009	LSRP Grant	water, irrigation and 1,000 cubic yards of grading
Perimeter Fencing	600,000	300,000	2009	LSRP Grant	4,000 linear feet block construction with view fence
Turf Play Area	140,400	70,200	2010	LSRP Grant	3 acres of turf with sprinklers and 200 trees
Park Lighting and Parking	204,000	102,000	2010	LSRP Grant	surface parking, park and parking lot lights
Ramada and Restrooms	430,000	430,000	2010	Town funds	1500 square foot restroom and 30x50 ramada
Museum Building	5,000,000		2011	Town and grant funds	30,000 square foot building
Agricultural Fields	25,000	15,000	2011	Town and grant/partnership funds	2-3 acres of native fields
Walking Trail	35,000	15,000	2011	Town and grant funds	trail adjacent to perimeter fence
Outdoor Amphitheatre	50,000	30,000	2011	Town and grant funds	stage area and grassy seating area with bleachers
				<b>Estimated Budget Total</b>	9,676,400